744
871

There are 19 Boys' Schools on the Islands with an attendance of 4,318 pupils locatedas follows :—

School.		Number of Pupils.
West Primary	Manama	666
East Primary	Manama	195
East Kindergarten	Manama	453
Secondary	Manama	165
Technical	Manama	54
Old Kindergarten	Muharraq	305
New Kindergarten	Muharraq	364
Primary	Muharraq	687
Samhij		96
Hidd		340
Budayia		167
Khamis		271
Tubli		62
Sanad		20
Aali		68
Kazakán		86
West Rafaa		64
East Rafaa		136
Sitra		119
	Total	4,318

744
871
164
●145

All these pupils were examined during the year and the results noting the defects and other relevant information recorded on an individual school medical card.

The most common defects were :—

Defect	Number cases.	Percentage Town School.	Country School.
Trachoma and Conjunctivitis	1250	20.9	52.7
Defective vision	413	7.5	15.4
Enlarged tonsils	223	5.5	3.9
Enlarged spleens	182	1.4	12.3
Skin diseases	136	0.5	10.7
Corneal opacities	88	1.6	3.2
Squint	37	1.0	0.3

The number of defects was on the whole, much higher among boys attending country schools than boys at town schools and their rate of growth was slower between the ages of 11 and 16. (Fig. 1). A lower standard of living, malnutrition and poor sanitary conditions in the villages contribute towards this discrepancy but it is hoped that the extension of anti-malarial activities, the school medical service and, if possible, the provision of a school meal, will help to remedy this state of affairs in due course.

The measurement of the weight and height of all pupils was carried out and recorded graphically on each boy's school medical card. This procedure over a number of years should be of immense value in detecting disease and assessing health, as loss of weight, failure to gain, or cessation of growth may be early indications of such various conditions as tuberculosis, sub-acute rheumatism, malnutrition, chronic disease of an essential organ, etc. While every care was taken to ensure reasonable accuracy, the anthropometric technique employed was liable to a certain measure of error as it was not possible to provide at, or carry around to each school, a beam scale weighing machine, or a proper height measuring scale. In addition, it was often difficult to estimate the correct age, as births are not registered in Bahrain, and many children especially in towns, gain admission before the school entrance age of seven years, and are shown as being of that age. As a point of interest, comparative figures in respect of weights and heights between groups of English and Bahrain schoolboys are shown (Fig. 2) from which it will be seen that at all ages, English schoolboys are heavier and taller than Bahrain schoolboys.